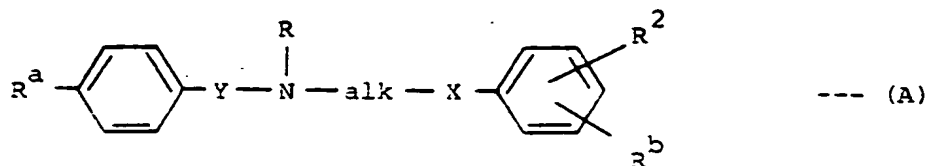


Claims

1) A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

wherein R^a is $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NH}_2$ or $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}^1$ where R^1 is a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group;

R^b is $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{NH}_2$ or R^3 where R^3 is $-\text{NHSO}_2(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4 \text{ alkyl})$ or $-\text{CONR}^4\text{R}^5$ where R^4 and R^5 are each independently H or C_1 - C_4 alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent a 1-pyrrolidinyl,

piperidino, morpholino or N-methylpiperazin-1-yl group;

with the proviso that when one of R^a and R^b is $-\text{NO}_2$, then the other is not $-\text{NH}_2$;

X is O, S or absent;

Y is an ethylene group optionally substituted by a methyl group;

"alk" is an ethylene, trimethylene or tetramethylene group, "alk" being optionally substituted by a methyl group;

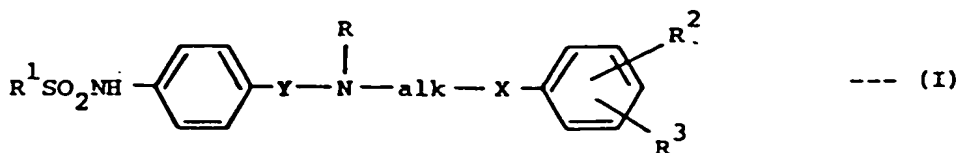
R is C_1 - C_4 alkyl;

and R^2 is H, halo, CF_3 or C_1 - C_4 alkyl.

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2. A compound of the formula:-



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

where R and R^1 are each independently C_1-C_4 alkyl;

X is O or S or absent;

Y is an ethylene group optionally substituted by a methyl group;

"alk" is an ethylene, trimethylene and tetramethylene group, "alk" being optionally substituted by a methyl group;

R^2 is H, halo, CF_3 or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^3 is a group of the formula

$-NHSO_2(C_1-C_4 \text{ alkyl})$ or $-CONR^4R^5$ where R^4 and R^5 are each independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent a 1-pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino or N-methylpiperazin-1-yl group.

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3. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^1 is methyl.
4. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R is methyl or ethyl.

5. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R is methyl or ethyl.

6. A compound according to claim 4 wherein R is methyl or ethyl.

7. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R is methyl.

8. A compound according to claim 2 wherein X is O.

9. A compound according to claim 3 wherein X is O.

10. A compound according to claim 4 wherein X is O.

11. A compound according to claim 5 wherein X is O.

12. A compound according to claim 5 wherein X is O.

13. A compound according to claim 6 wherein X is O.

14. A compound according to claim 2 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

15. A compound according to claim 3 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

16. A compound according to claim 4 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

17. A compound according to claim 5 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

18. A compound according to claim 6 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

19. A compound according to claim 7 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

20. A compound according to claim 8 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

21. A compound according to claim 9 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

22. A compound according to claim 10 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

23. A compound according to claim 11 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

24. A compound according to claim 12 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

25. A compound according to claim 13 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$.

26. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or

CH_3 .
27. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or

CH_3 .
28. A compound according to claim 4 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or

CH_3 .
29. A compound according to claim 5 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or

CH_3 .

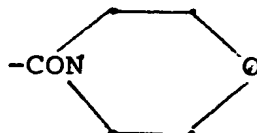
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30. A compound according to claim 6 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
31. A compound according to claim 7 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
32. A compound according to claim 8 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
33. A compound according to claim 9 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
34. A compound according to claim 10 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
35. A compound according to claim 11 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
36. A compound according to claim 12 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
37. A compound according to claim 13 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
38. A compound according to claim 14 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
39. A compound according to claim 15 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
40. A compound according to claim 16 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
41. A compound according to claim 17 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
42. A compound according to claim 18 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
43. A compound according to claim 18 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
44. A compound according to claim 19 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
45. A compound according to claim 20 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
46. A compound according to claim 21 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .

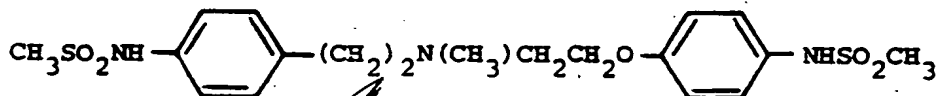
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47. A compound according to claim 22 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
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48. A compound according to claim 23 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
49. A compound according to claim 24 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
50. A compound according to claim 25 wherein R^2 is H, Cl or CH_3 .
51. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^2 is H.
52. A compound according to claim 2 wherein R^3 is $NHSO_2CH_3$, $-CONH_2$, $CONHCH_3$, $-CON(C_2H_5)_2$ or

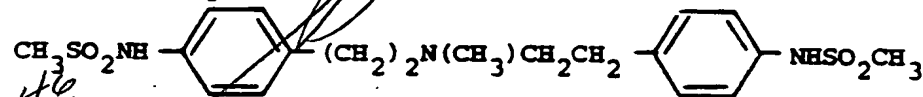


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53. A compound according to claim 52 wherein R^3 is $-NHSO_2CH_3$.

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54. A compound of the formula:



55. A compound of the formula:



56. A compound according to claim 2 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$ and X is O or S.

57. A compound according to claim 2 wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_2-$ and X is absent.

58. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an anti-arrhythmic effective amount of a compound of claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

59. A method of treating cardiac arrhythmia comprising administering to an arrhythmic host in need of such treatment an anti-arrhythmic effective dose of a compound of claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

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